

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 ACDA-19 NIC-01 EB-11

OMB-01 TRSE-00 COA-02 INT-08 SCI-06 DOTE-00 IGA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 HEW-08 FPC-01

CIEP-02 COME-00 RSR-01 /234 W
----- 128471

R 220900 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6672

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USDEL JEC PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID NO US VN

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN AID TO VIETNAM

REF: A. OSLO 1699, B. STATE 7887, C. SAIGON 6735

1. SUMMARY. NORTH VIETNAM ASKED MAINLY FOR FISHERIES ASSISTANCE WHILE SOUTH VIETNAM ASKED ALSO FOR POWER DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE OF THE NORWEGIAN AID MISSION IN EARLY APRIL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A FOLLOW UP TO OUR DEMARCHE DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL A WE CONSULTED FOREIGN MINISTRY DIVISION CHIEF FOR BILATERAL AID KNUT TARALDSET WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE NORWEGIAN
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FACT- FINDING MISSION TO VIETNAM. WE ALSO LEFT A COPY OF THE TALKING PAPER GIVEN TU UNDER SECY SVENNEVIG WHICH HAD BEEN BASED ON REFTEL B. TARALDSET WAS ALREADY AWARE OF ITS CONTENTS.

3. HE DESCRIBED HIS TRIP TO NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM IN EARLY APRIL IN SOME DETAIL. THE MISSION FLEW TO HANOI FROM PEKING, SPENT FIVE DAYS AND DEPARTED VIA AEROFLOT TO RANGOON WHERE THE MISSION REVERSED COURSE TO FLY TO SAIGON VIA BANGKOK. IN THE NORTH THE MISSION ALSO VISITED HAIPHONG AND IN THE SOUTH IT VISITED VUNG TAO AS WELL.

4. NORTH VIETNAM PORTION - MISSION CONSULTED NVN STATE PLANNING COMMISSIONER KA WHO GAVE TOP PRIORITY TO RECEIVING NORWEGIAN AID IN FISHERIES SECTOR. AID IN SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT FIELD ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED BUT MOST OF THE TIME WAS SPENT ON FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT. MISSION VISITED PARTIALLY DAMAGED FISH PROCESSING PLANT IN HAIPHONG AND TOURED A PRIMITIVE FISHERIES RESEARCH LABORATORY. SEVERAL PRC, SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN- BUILT TRAWLERS WERE NOTED IN THE HARBOR AREA WHICH APPEARED RELATIVELY UNDAMAGED WITH CARGO CRANES IN FULL OPERATION. NVN REQUESTED NORWEGIANS TO PREPARE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON SITING A NEW FISHING CENTER ALONG THE COAST. NVN ALSO ASKED FOR SEVERAL NEW LARGE FISH PROCESSING PLANTS TO REPLACE ANTIQUATED AND DAMAGED FACILITIES. NORWEGIANS CONSIDERED NVN FISHERY PLANS TOO GRANDIOSE BUT NVN CLEARLY KNOWS WHAT IT WANTS FROM THE M.

5. TARALDSET CLAIMED NORWEGIAN MISSION WAS PLEASED WITH THE ABSENCE OF NVN POLITICAL RHETORIC. TALKS REMAINED TECHNICAL AND THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVT WAS NEVER MENTIONED. MISSION SAW PRIMIN PHAN VAN DONG BRIEFLY EARLY ONE MORNING.

6. SOUTH VIETNAM PORTION - IN ADDITION TO MEETING SVN OFFICIALS LISTED IN PARA 3 REFTEL C, NORWEGIAN MISSION ALSO VISITED FISHING PORT VUNG TAO. SVN OFFICIALS INDICATED INTEREST IN RECEIVING AID FOR: FISHERIES, POWER SUPPLY AND WATER SUPPLY. IN DETAILED DISCUSSIONS, THE REQUEST FOR WATER SUPPLY ASSISTANCE SOON FADED AWAY. IN CONTRAST WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NVN, SOUTH VIETNAMESE WERE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THEIR FISHERY RESOURCES. THE FISH CATCHES WHICH THE MISSION SAW SEEMED EXCELLENT. SVN FISHERIES DIRECTOR WAS ESPECIALLY ACTIVE AND ARTICULATE BUT NO CONCRETE PROJECTS WERE PRESENTED. NORWEGIAN MISSION CAME AWAY WITH MUCH DATA AND ONLY AN IMPRESSION THAT SVN WANTS TO IMPROVE ITS FISHING DOCKS AND LANDING AREAS.

7. TARALDSET PERSONALLY BELIEVES THE BEST POSSIBILITY FOR NORWEGIAN AID LIES IN ASSISTANCE FOR POWER PLANTS. SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES WERE OFFERED. SVN IS NOW USING ONLY 20 PERCENT OF ITS TOTAL HYDROELECTRIC POWER POTENTIAL. TARALDSET BELIEVES HYDECO (A NORWEGIAN HYDROELECTRIC CONSORTIUM) WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT.

8. AS FOR COMMODITY ASSISTANCE, SVN INDICATED IT WOULD SUBMIT FORMAL REQUESTS FOR ROOFING MATERIALS AND FERTILIZERS TO ASSIST THE MONTAGNARDS.

9. AID FORECAST - TARALDSET REPEATED SVENNEVIG' S REMARK (REFTEL A) THAT THE GOVT WAS NOT SUBMITTING SPECIFIC AID PROPOSALS FOR VIETNAM TO THE STARTING AT THIS TIME EXCEPT TO ASK THAT 35 MILLION NORWEGIAN KRONER (ALMOST DOLS 6 MILLION) BE SET ASIDE. FONMIN VAARVIK HAD MENTIONED THIS AID AMOUNT EARLIER IN FEBRUARY TO THE STARTING WHEN DISCUSSING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE OF 15 MILLION KRONER (DOLS 2.5 MILLION). OF THE 35 MILLION KRONER FOR AID, 10 MILLION IS SET ASIDE FOR NVN, 10 MILLION FOR SVN, 10 MILLION FOR MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE (POSSIBLY UN) AND 5 MILLION UNSPECIFIED. OF THE 15 MILLION KRONER HUMANITARIAN AID WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN AUTHORIZED, 6 MILLION KRONER (DOLS 1 MILLION) HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR NVN, THE SAME FOR SVN AND 3 MILLION FOR " OTHER PURPOSES." SO FAR NOTHING HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR THE 12 MILLION KRONER TOTAL FOR NVN AND SVN BUT SOME OF THE 3 MILLION KRONER MAY BE USED BY THE NORWEGIAN MISSION ALLIANCE FOR A LEPROSARIUM IN SVN. NEGOTIATIONS ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY IN SAIGON.

10. TARALDSET DOES NOT EXPECT ANY VIETNAM AID DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE STARTING UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER. NORWEGIAN AID POLICY IS STILL 50 PERCENT MULTILIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATERAL AND 50 PERCENT BILATERAL AND HE IMAGINES THIS FORMULA WILL BE USED IN VIETNAM. SO FAR NORWAY HAS HEARD LITTLE (EXCEPT FROM US) ABOUT THE IBRD CONSORTIUM FOR SOUTH VIETNAM ASSISTANCE AND VARIOUS UN AGENCIES CONTACTED ON VIETNAM AID HAVE NOT COME UP WITH MUCH YET.

11. COMMENT: WE SHALL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE IBRD CONSORTIUM POSSIBILITIES AT HIGH LEVELS AND ALSO INSIST ON EQUITABLE TREATMENT ON AID TO BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE SOONER THE SVN GOVT CAN REQUEST SPECIFIC PROJECTS THE BETTER THE PROSPECTS OF NORWEGIAN AID WILL BE. NORWEGIANS NOW STUDYING DATA OBTAINED ON THEIR VIETNAM FACT- FINDING TOUR AND EXPECT TO PRESENT CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO THE STARTING FOR DISCUSSIONS IN

THE FALL. CROWE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OSLO01910
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730552/aaaajplx.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.OSLO 1699, B.STATE 7887, C.SAIGON 6735
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980226
Subject: NORWEGIAN AID TO VIETNAM
TAGS: EAID, NO, US
To: AID
COPENHAGEN
GENEVA
HELSINKI
JEC PARIS
REYKJAVIK
SAIGON

SECSTATE WASHDC
STOCKHOLM

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005